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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/676,335	10/01/2003	Fredrik Solhage	ANO 6277 US1/3166DIV	6520

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09/14/2005

Michelle J. Burke
Akzo Nobel Inc.
Intellectual Property
7 Livingstone Avenue
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

EXAMINER

CORDRAY, DENNIS R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1731

DATE MAILED: 09/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/676,335	Applicant(s) SOLHAGE ET AL.	
	Examiner Dennis Cordray	Art Unit 1731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 16-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/2/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

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DETAILED ACTION

This is a first action on the merits of Application SN 10/676,335.

Election/Restrictions

1. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

- I. a process for the production of paper that comprises adding a polysaccharide having a substituent having an aromatic group and a substituent having no aromatic group (claims 1-15).
- II. a process for the production of paper that comprises adding a polysaccharide having a substituent having an aromatic group and a second polysaccharide having a substituent having no aromatic group (claims 16-30).

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claims are generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include

Art Unit: 1731

all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

2. In a telephone voicemail message from Michelle Burke, attorney for the applicant on Wednesday, June 22, 2005 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of a process for the production of paper (Invention I), claims 1-15. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 16-30 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Specification

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is too long. Correction is required. The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph within the range of 50 to 150 words. The abstract should not exceed 25 lines of text [See MPEP § 608.01(b)].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 11 recites the limitation "the anionic material" in claim 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

The first mention in the claims of an anionic material is in claim 8. It is therefore assumed, for the purpose of this examination, that claim 11 depends from claim 8.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

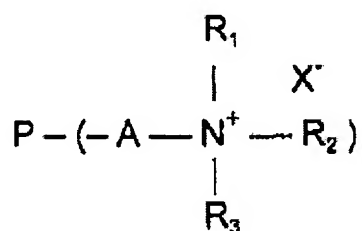
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Persson et al (WO 99/55964).

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7: Persson et al discloses a process for the production of paper from an aqueous suspension containing cellulosic fibers and optional fillers, that

Art Unit: 1731

comprises adding a cationic polysaccharide to the suspension, forming and dewatering the suspension on a wire (page 2, lines 2-5). The polysaccharide can be selected from starches or guar gums (page 2, lines 30-31) and can have multiple groups, aromatic and non-aromatic, of the form



where P is a polysaccharide residue, A is a chain of atoms attaching N to the polysaccharide comprising C, H, and optionally O and/or N, R₁ and R₂ are H or a C1-C3 alkyl group, R₃ is an alkyl or aralkyl group containing at least 2 carbon atoms, and X⁻ is a counterion. Alternatively R₁, R₂ and R₃ together with N form an aromatic group. (page 3, lines 26-28 and page 4, lines 3-23). This description encompasses all possibilities of the structures in claims 3 and 5 with the exception of R₃ having only one carbon.

Claim 4: Persson et al discloses that the aromatic group can be a benzyl group (page 3, line 34).

Claims 8-10: Persson et al discloses that an anionic material may be added, and that the anionic material can include silica based particles and clays of the smectite type (page 5, lines 25-33 and page 6, lines 7-8). Persson et al further discloses that the anionic material can be silica based particles with a specific surface area from 50 – 1000 m²/g and which are present in a sol having an S value of 8 - 45% (page 6, lines 31-

36). The ranges for surface area and sol S value significantly overlap and thus anticipate the claimed ranges.

Claim 13: Persson et al discloses the papermaking process further comprising recirculating the white water and adding fresh water up to 30 tons of fresh water per ton of dry paper produced (page 10, lines 5-7).

Claims 14 and 15: Persson et al discloses adding a synthetic low molecular weight cationic polymer, which can be a polyacrylamide (page 7, lines 32-36 and page 8, lines 1-5)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Persson et al in view of Fröhlich et al (WO 2002/12626).

Persson et al does not disclose a cationic charge density range from 0.05 to 4.0 meq/g. Persson et al neither discloses that the anionic material is an anionic organic step-growth polymer, nor that the polymer is a naphthalene sulphonate.

Fröhlich et al discloses a drainage and retention aid added to the suspension comprising a cationic organic polymer and an anionic polymer, the anionic polymer being selected from step-growth polymers as one of several choices (page 1, lines 29-36), wherein the step-growth polymer can be a naphthalene sulphonate as one of

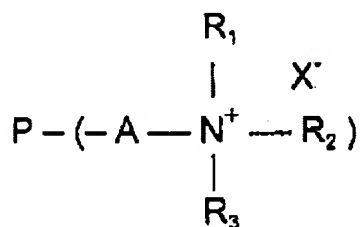
Art Unit: 1731

several choices (page 7, lines 1-12). Fröhlich et al further teaches that the addition of both cationic and anionic polymers, both having aromatic groups, improves drainage and retention (page 1, lines 29-31). The processes of Persson et al, Fröhlich et al and the instant invention are analogous because they pertain to of retention and drainage aids used in a papermaking process. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a naphthalene sulphonate polymer as the anionic polymer in the process of Persson et al in view of Fröhlich et al in order to improve retention and drainage.

Fröhlich et al discloses that the cationic polymer has a degree of cationic substitution of from 0.005 to 1, and a corresponding charge density range of 0.1 to 6 meq/g, which significantly overlaps the claimed range (page 5, lines 34-36 and page 6, lines 1-7). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to obtain the claimed charge density in the cationic polymer in the process of Persson et al in view of Fröhlich et al because the processes of Persson et al and Fröhlich et al have similar degrees of cationic substitution.

6. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Persson et al in view of Klemets et al (WO 99/55965).

Persson et al does discloses that R3 in the group with the structure



Art Unit: 1731

can be an alkyl group with at least 2 carbon atoms, while R1 and R2 can be methyl groups and A can be $-\text{CH}_2\text{-CH(OH)-CH}_2-$ (page 4, lines 11-18). Persson et al does not disclose that R3 can be a methyl group.

Klemets et al discloses a drainage and retention aid that comprises an organic copolymer that can have both aromatic and nonaromatic groups of the type represented by the above structure and that the groups R1, R2 and R3 can all be methyl groups (page 4 lines 31-41). The processes of Persson et al, Klemets et al and the instant invention are analogous because they pertain to the addition of retention and drainage aids in a papermaking process. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a cationic polymer having substituents with the structure above, wherein R1, R2 and R3 are methyl groups, in the process of Persson et al in view of Klemets et al as one of a variety of possible substituents.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure [Sutman et al (6168686), Huang et al (6235205), Huang et al (6310124), Sikkar et al (6355141), Keiser et al (6372089), Jewell et al (6379494), Huang et al (US 2002/0058745) and Lindgren et al (US 2002/0096290)]. They pertain to other papermaking processes wherein cationic and anionic materials are used.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis Cordray whose telephone number is 571-272-8244. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F, 7:30 -4:00 PM.

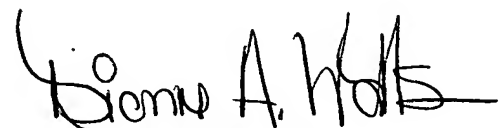
Art Unit: 1731

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



DRC



DIONNE A. WALLS
PRIMARY EXAMINER